

21 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: TDY, 14-17 October 1975

1. On the indicated dates, I traveled from Washington, D. C. to Poughkeepsie, N. Y. From Poughkeepsie I traveled back and forth to Hyde Park, N. Y. where I examined various papers in the A. A. Berle collection at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. A number of very useful items pertaining to the Bay of Pigs were located in the Berle papers.

2. After driving from Poughkeepsie on 16 October, I had a lengthy interview (17 October) with Richard M. Bissell, Jr., formerly Deputy Director of Plans for CIA. The interview concerned the Bay of Pigs and focused on questions which I had developed during the course of my research for the Bay of Pigs history.

3. The Bissell interview represented a significant gain in my understanding of the management of the operation, interpersonal relations, tactical and strategic concepts, communications problems, and inter-Agency relationships, including relations with the White House.

4. The interview also indicated quite clearly to Mr. Bissell that there were important questions concerning training, equipment, tactics, inter- and intra-Agency relationships, and administrative problems that should be taken up with other of the principals involved in the operation. He specified that I should certainly talk -- as I have long planned -- to Jake Esterline, [REDACTED]

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5. I told Mr. Bissell that I would send him a copy of the transcript of the taped interview for editing and/or additional comment, and he urged me to do so. He also left open the possibility of a future meeting. There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Bissell's responses were frank, forthright, and anything but self-serving. It was also clear that Mr. Bissell was quite pleased to know that the Agency had finally undertaken the task of preparing an official history of the Bay of Pigs in a professional manner.

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Jack B. Pfeiffer

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